Previewing:
A Textbook Reading Strategy

Why do we lose concentration or have difficulty remembering? Most often we are not adequately prepared for the reading task. Previewing is a preparation strategy to improve our ability to focus on and remember our assignments.

Benefits of Previewing:

• Better concentration: Because you understand what you are reading about you can concentrate more fully.
• Better memory: In asking yourself: What’s it about?, How’s it organized?, and What’s important?, you are actively thinking, processing and storing the information you read.
• It’s fast: Previewing only takes 5 minutes and with improved concentration you’ll be able to spend less time reading!

Previewing Steps: Remember THIEVES
Spend no more than 5 minutes!

• Title:
• Headings: Ask yourself: How is it organized?
• Introduction: Ask yourself: What is it about?
• Every First Sentence
• Visuals, Vocabulary
• End of Chapter Questions
• Summary/Conclusion: Ask yourself: What’s important?

If my preview session was successful, I should be able to answer these questions:

• What is it about?
• How is it organized?
• What’s important?